

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Initially, the allowance of claims 1-4 and 8 is noted, with appreciation.

The other claims have been amended in response to the objection and rejection set forth by the Examiner.

Thus, claims 5 and 6 have been amended to insert a definition for the $(BH_3)_{0.1}$ group, based in particular on the disclosure at page 16, lines 16-17 of the specification, indicating that the borane BH_3 can be present, or need not be present.

Claim 6 has been amended, at line 1, to change "and" to --or--.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to provide a definition for sec-phosphino, based on the disclosure below formula (I) on page 7 of the specification.

Claim 9 has been amended to delete reference to "the group 8", and to recite the transition metals based on the disclosure in the third paragraph on page 20 of the specification. This corrects an obvious mistake. Cu and Ag do not belong to group VIII transition metals and Rh and Ir do not belong to group 8 transition metals (but to group VIII transition metals).

The disclosure on page 20 of the specification, and claim 10 have also been amended to delete reference to "group 8".

Claim 9 has been amended to refer to the formula (I) according to claim 1.

Claims 11, 12 and 14 have been amended to avoid the "characterized in that" language, more consistent with U.S. practice.

Claim 13 has been replaced by new claim 15, drafted in more conventional method of use format.

In view of the claim amendments, the objection to claim 6 in item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action has been rendered moot.

The rejection of claims 5 and 6 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, these claims have been amended to insert a definition for $(BH_3)_{0.1}$, meaning that the BH_3 group may be present or not be present. The compounds

with BH₃ are exemplified in Examples C1, C2, C3 and C5. The compounds without BH₃ are exemplified in Example C4.

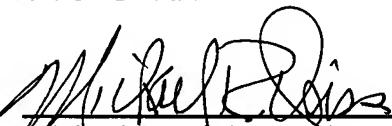
All of the remaining rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §101, as set forth in items 6-11 of the Office Action have been rendered moot in view of the claim amendments.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of objection and rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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